

February 14, 1996 LB 1046, 1141

based programs set up. And when the community based programs are set up, we will be able to end the evaluations as they are doing it currently, and supplement that with the community based programs. We will be able to affect the tremendous number of youth that are going to the institutions so that, unfortunately right now, they're not able to do their mission that they've been given because it's too big, fast a revolving door. But, as you probably all know, because of the bill LB 1141, all of the community based programs are not yet there. And so since they're not there, we cannot eliminate the evaluations as they're doing it now in, in Geneva. Right now they're termed to, they're scheduled to terminate because of 988, December 31, 1996. LB 988 also provided that the authority to operate the youth diagnostic rehabilitation center would terminate December 31 of this year. And again, since all of the community based programs are not on-line, that's just not a feasible thing to do. What this bill basically does is provide that the community based evaluations shall supplement but not replace services at the center. In essence, as community based programs come on-line, they will begin taking more and more of the evaluation process to eventually 988, the goal of 988 to relive that will be accomplished. But since the community based programs at this point, but with the Legislature's help soon will be on-line statewide, we need to change that date so that they don't close prematurely.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. For discussion on the motion to advance. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I'd like to just ask a few questions on this bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, will you respond?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You bet.

SENATOR WITEK: First of all I'm curious as to why this was not included in LB 1141. Why this change.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: There was no need to include it in 1141 because 1141 is expanding the community based programs, this is dealing with the evaluations. It was felt that some senators may have some difficulty with 1141 because they don't